

India dolls -
 Rani Hindu bride - 3.50
 Raja - 3.50
 Woman in Purdah - 3.50

MAE STARR
 PHONOGRAPH DOLL
 Schoonbut Circus
 FOR 2 sizes
 COLLECTORS

DOLL TALK

Volume 12, Number 12

May - June, 1959

Brides Of Many Lands

June, the traditional month of weddings, seems to act as a catalysis for romance not only in the United States, but in every corner of the globe. What, then, could be more fitting than to now and here feature brides of many lands?

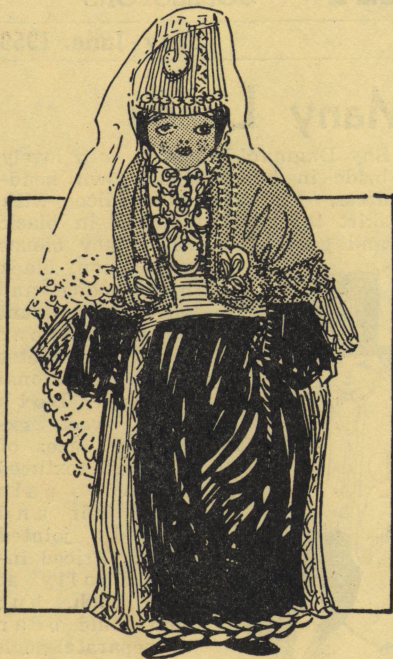
Norway is a land of great beauty but little in the way of resources. Its hardy inhabitants, descended from the Vikings, manage to wrest a living from the rocky slopes and deep fjords but it is a bitter struggle. Our 9½ inch Hardanger Bride and Groom come from a district where the average yearly temperature is a sub-arctic 30 degrees and snow is not unusual every month of the year. Even there, however, June is likely to be sunny, with beautiful verdant forests and pastures. Certainly, our Norse bridal couple are bravely attired, with the Groom, Sigurd, No. 970, quite handsome in black knee britches, soft felt hat, green stitched vest and matching red jacket, high white collar and long knitted stockings.

Shy Dagmar, No. 970A, is a lovely bride in her golden crown head-dress, red beaded bodice with skirt to match trimmed in black and gold braid, white lacy blouse and apron, black under-bodice and silver ornament at her throat which completes her traditional costume. Both have sweet, expressive faces of fine flesh textured celluloid; pale blond hair and sturdy jointed bodies. Priced individually at \$9.95 each, but who could bear to separate such youthful lovers—\$18.90 the pair.



Direct from Manger Square in Bethlehem comes 11 inch Mina-

Ruth, Bride of Trans-Jordan. Her elaborate costume is reminiscent of ancient times with its ornately embroidered bodice and sleeves, tall red fez, covered with white, lace edged veil, and festooned with her dowry in the form of a string of gold coins. Her flowing robe shows panels of red and black, with a white sash. Mina-Ruth, No. 854A, is \$6.50, while the matching groom, Omar, No. 854, in brown



and gold robe with red turban-like hat, is just \$4.50. Both have painted cloth faces and stuffed bodies with wooden limbs.

Zori, our 9 inch Hungarian bride, has been a perennial favorite with Kimport customers for over a decade. Repeat shipments on this handsome Magyar lass have been countless and no wonder! She is gaily attired in one of old Europe's most elaborate costumes, as a bride of the Sarkoz district, with a high, flower crowned headdress, puffed sleeves, embroidered ribbon on blouse, apron and skirt, all in brilliant color combinations of red, yellow,

blue and green. A doll of excellent detail and workmanship, Zori has a neatly stitched cloth body and prettily modeled and painted composition face, with brown eyes and high Slavic cheekbones! Hungarian Bride, No. 205A, just \$7.95.



Methodist mission made in Seoul, are our smiling faced, 9 inch Korean bride and groom. Faces are well modeled and hand painted of flesh tinted silk. The groom, No. 554, wears a huge sleeved bright blue robe, heavy black cloth boots, white trousers and a distinctive winged black hat. His pretty bride, No. 554A, is even more brilliantly attired in a red dress with paneled sleeves of yellow, blue, white, green and magenta, a flowered headdress and filmy collar supported by a golden rod. On separate cloth covered bases, at just \$5.00 each.

In the same size and price range is the Old Gentleman, No. 554B, with thin, white chin whiskers, gray robes, tapered black top hat and a long silver bowed pipe.



Also oriental and mission made is the Rani, No. 672B, a high caste Hindu bride of mysterious India. This 9 inch, all cloth, hand sewn doll, may be crudely made by our standards, but never the less appealing and authentic. Her costume is liberally decorated with tinsel braid on bright hued cloth; gold wire nose ring matches her hoop earrings—a worthwhile addition to any bridal group, and just \$3.50. Also still available in this series are, Ameera, Moslem woman in purdah, No. 673B, and



the Raja, No.671; both are the same size and price.

Frankly, we had hoped to offer even more new bridal dolls this issue, but you know about the best laid plans and all of that! Still somewhere enroute, or in some cases, still in the discussion stage, are new bridal additions from, Montenegro, Poland, Pakistan and the Philippines, to mention just a few. Watch for more brides in future issues of Doll Talk.

ACCREDITED

Dorothy Dubree didn't offer this paragraph as credit reference, but wouldn't you trust such a collector? She cheerily explains along with this month's payment:— "It presently costs me \$3.00 to get twenty-two miles to and from church each Sunday, and Tuesday

to the Ladies Auxiliary."

Of course, we might object to Mrs. D.'s short-changing her doll budget, but, bless her, she adds:— "My twenty-seven-year-old sewing machine broke down and it took \$12.00 to repair it. Oh well, maybe I can sew faster this month and do better."

FRANCAISE

Any information pertaining to dolls—anytime—is of interest to us who compile **Doll Talk**. It is largely due to these findings of yours, sent on to us, that our small magazine has maintained its standards for some twenty-three years.

Often we have felt like asking direct questions about one thing or another and now, although Mrs. Hart did not suggest it, we are going to do just that.

Do you have—but first a bit of explanation. As many doll collectors know, Mrs. Luella Hart of California, is an undefatigable researcher in the doll field, and her articles often appear in various collector magazines. Starting in the March issue, 1959, she is writing a series on French Doll Patents, 1824 to 1900 for **Antiques Journal**. It will probably take 24 issues to cover them all. Imagine the work and expense of such an extensive subject and yet \$7.00 will bring them all to you in a two year's subscription. Just address, **The Antiques Journal**, Westfield, New York, with your remittance.

Sometime this summer, **Spinning Wheel** expects to publish another series of French trademarks that Mrs. Hart has gathered from 1901 to 1918. Photographs of dolls with marks will be printed and Luella Hart is still seeking some elusive material. She would appreciate any information sent her and be glad to give credit. She will even help pay for pictures, but we suggest you write her before sending. Her address: Mrs. Luella Hart, 145 Monte Cresta Ave., Apt. 401, Oakland, 11, California.

Do you have a doll called "La Parisienne," "Clio Bebe—Paris," "Phalie Bebe—Paris," "Mignon—Liberty," or any French doll with Paris mark?

Or "Bebe Olga," "S.T.F.," "Bebe Coiffure" (German but mark in French), "Paris Bebe," "Cheri Bebe," "Bebe Mon Tresor," "Duran Marx," "M.D.," "Bebe Gloria—Made in Paris," "N.P.," "H.C. L.—Paris," "L.P.A.," "La Poupee des Allies," "Ma Jolie," "Montreuil Bebe"?

A STRANGE TRANSITION

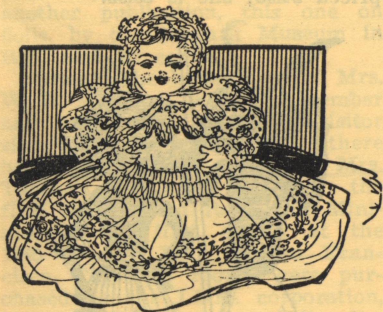
The following surprising news item was taken from Marcia's memo in **Spinning Wheel** magazine for May 1959. Now dolls and pins would go together, but dolls and pens!—

The Pen Is Mightier: In 1899, Jumeau, Bru, and Eden Bebe joined their doll manufactories in France into the Societe Bebe et Jouets, and marked their wares with the initials S.F.B.J. Luella Hart wrote about the merger in her story on "French Doll Trademarks, 1885-1900" in **Spinning Wheel** for August '57. A recent note from Mrs. Hart tells us that the S.F.B.J. though it has not been making bisque dolls for many years, has now been taken over by a company manufacturing pens, and that the same S.F.B.J. initials are appearing on their products.

To facilitate your subscribing to **Spinning Wheel** magazine you can write the publishers direct at: Taneytown, Maryland. The subscription rate is \$3.00 one year, \$5.00 two years.

LATE ARRIVALS

A few years ago, a beautiful Brittany Bebe by Madame LeMinor made an all too brief appearance in the Kimport line. Soon, up, up, up, went the rate of exchange on francs and we were forced to discontinue after our first small initial shipment of about two dozen dolls. Now we are pleased to announce that we can once again offer this sweet-faced baby in rich christening gown at the old price of \$12.95. The doll itself is a curly-legged infant type of finest



French celluloid and about 8 inches tall. The costume is the elaborate part, all of white satin and lace, including the bonnet which is literally encrusted with tiny, gold beads. Big puff sleeves, full skirt and apron, all have wide bands of beautiful embroidered ribbon edged with red and gold braid. White booties and a filmy decorative yoke collar complete baby's festive attire. Each doll, No. 514, also has a tiny gold

medal on a chain around its neck with the famous LeMinor name enscribed on it. A real treasure for anyone who loves dolls or babies, priced at \$12.95 each.



Hilda Ege, doll maker of Oslo, Norway, has recently received some well deserved publicity when the Norwegian Embassy used a group of her costume dolls in a traveling exhibit that went to various schools and civic groups around the country. Doll collectors have long realized Mrs. Ege's talents, and Kimport is pleased to be able to offer her Laplanders as a new arrival. The 9 inch nomads of the northern wastes of Norway, Sweden and Finland have well modeled, handsome faces of heavy composition, and like all primitive people, they show their love of vivid color in their attire, the only renaissance costume still worn daily by any group of people.

It features bright hues of red, blue, yellow and green, in stripes and panels decorating leggings with curling pointed toed shoes, flaring jackets, and for the boy, No. 966, his tasseled, distinctive "Four Winds" cap. The girl, No. 966A, has a snug fitting hood-like hat, and a flowered print under-blouse. From the land of the Northern Lights and reindeer, just \$6.25 each, or \$12.50 per pair.



The fierce Maori tribesmen of New Zealand were a savage but chivalrous foe of the early English settlers. For example, after an unsuccessful attempt by British troops, suffering heavy casualties, to storm a Maori stockade, all the wounded were found unharmed after the battle, with fresh drinking water placed by them. Such gallant gestures earned the full respect of the Scottish and English newcomers, and New Zea-

land is one of the few British colonies, even today, where the original inhabitants have full and equal rights, not only legally but socially as well. Our Maori dolls may be made of jointed, olive brown plastic but their painted facial tattoos and frizzy black hair are definitely in likeness to the rugged people they represent. The man, No. 280, wears only the traditional Polynesian grass toga and carries a broad bladed wooden spear. The woman, No. 280A, has her hair bound by a red band and a more elaborate costume of shoulder cape in a rough woven material decorated with bits of red yarn, as well as the striped grass skirt. Height of these direct imports is 6½ inches, and he is priced \$4.95; she is \$5.95.



From neighboring Australia are the Sarah Midgley creations in 4½ inch size of black pipecleaner

and cloth, but authentic, original and humorous in appearance. No. 281X is the aborigine Chief with shield and war club or boom-erang, while No. 281BX is the gray and grizzled Witch Doctor with charms, both good and evil, for sale. Both come on individual hard wood bases, priced just \$2.25 each.

MORE ABOUT THORNE MINIATURE ROOMS

In the Jan.-Feb. *Doll Talk*, we offered copies of "Miniature Rooms" by Mrs. James Ward Thorne, which was published in 1942 by the Newark Museum. The price is 75 cents postpaid, and the response was good. This is still available, as is *The Museum*, another publication, this one on dolls, by the Newark Museum in 1955, also 75 cents.

Through the helpfulness of Mrs. W. R. Mahoney, who is a member and has been a frequent visitor since 1933, we learn that there have been three sets of Mrs. Thorne's Miniature Rooms; the first set, "Period Rooms in Miniature," was first shown at the 1940 World's Fair in San Francisco. These 30 rooms were purchased by the I.B.M. corporation, but are not now on public display. The second set, 30 rooms titled "Architectural Models — European Rooms," together with a third set of 37 rooms, "American Rooms in Miniature," are on permanent display at the Chicago Art Institute.

The second set, described and pictured in the booklet we are offering, was on loan exhibit to museums for some years, and in 1942 at the Newark Museum, hence their publishing the brochure.

BEAT THE PRICE RAISE

Kimport stays with lower prices just as long as possible. In spite of several increases in postal rates and manufacturer's costs, the Butler Doll Stands have been sold to you at the same prices for many years. Soon a small increase will be inevitable. However, with this *Doll Talk* we are including the old price list and order form and will honor these quotations to Sept. 1, 1959. It's a good idea to have enough stands all the time; it would save you money now to anticipate your growing doll family and stock up. We'll even reserve stands for you to be delivered later. Will you write while thinking about it?

DOUBLY THANKFUL

Along with Margaret Hyde's payment for a pair of those French provincial Santons, she typed on re. "Cabbages and Kings."

"Please tell Mildred Reap that in Phyllis Fenner's book, 'Feasts and Frolics,' there is a really sweet story about a doll named 'Thankful.' I tell it to the children at Thanksgiving time.

"I think I have my Dolls in Fiction list about complete and then I find some new one. Those terra-cotta Santons are utterly delightful—I'll budget out a Swiss woodcarved girl next. Of course, I could keep my hair dyed platinum blond instead! Says I,

'Each to her folly,
For me it's a dolly!'



First, thanks for the encouraging lot of interest shown in the German Bisques, as documented on Primer Page as well as offered for sale in last **Doll Talk**. Of course we thought they well merited consideration, else they would not have appeared under the above heading.

This time, French Bisques will get a top preference; they're more expensive and "uppity," but charm is charmin' and these doll gals do have it—IT.

Just out of their Paris packaging are two "as is," which only means you could freshen and refurbish a bit if so urged. 13½ inch "Giselle" seems to bear no marks; cork topped opening, very dark blue blown type eyes, closed mouth; the 2½ inch head is of the long slender type—like a young lady. Swivel neck fits into all original composition body which is of the inexpensive but well modeled style, jointed only at hips and shoulders; fingers are separated though on well shaped hands. Original clothes consist of tarleton undies and turquoise satine frock, lace and ribbon trimmed. The only new addition since her manufacture, oh, around the mid-eighties, is a beautiful, human hair wig in softest chestnut brown. "Giselle," (new name, too) is No. A65—\$50.00.

Much beloved and eagerly sought is an early Jumeau child like this wonderful 19 inch doll with enormous brown (blown glass) eyes. Pierced ears, paper-thin line opening below modeled

in teeth, cork top—we just peeled back brown braided wig to make sure of this and also to check the perfection of her "Tete Jumeau" marked head. Firmly strung, fully jointed body is marked Bebe Jumeau. Original bronze leather slippers are stamped Paris above that French bee trademark. She wears an old lace trimmed chemise and cambric petticoat made with laid gathers. No dress, but a China silk lined flannel cape, hooded, and all red, came with her, so maybe you've a R.R. Hood basket. Certainly even a woodsman or even a wooden man would be concerned over such a darling doll child! No. A66—\$145.00.

Another 19 inch French child, bisque head marked Tete Jumeau over the Bte and old S.G.D.G. stampings. Her large outstanding eyes are that unbelievably beautiful blue; closed lips, pierced ears, cork under the wig and, oh yes, a voice box string that brings forth a crisp "ma ma." Original jointed body in splendid condition is marked "Medealle d'or" and Paris under her Jumeau name. Darling old clothes, mostly "as was" from pink socks to chip straw hat. Anyway, "Tete J." is just as she came from abroad, all "Frenchy" and of about 1880 period. No. A67, \$165.00.

Another truly beautiful bisque is 17 inch "Sandy," so dubbed by her soft mohair curls. This old wig is perfect with the "outstanding" brown glass eyes and coral tint of her cheeks. Solid or ball head, which is side turned on those deep, full-bosomed shoulders, measures 5 inches from bottom of shoulders up. Applied ears, closed lips, all beautifully modeled, including a dimple in the chin. Original plump

arms have broken center finger, but even so, these hands are so right that we think they are preferable to new replacements. All leather body is hand sewn, the French type with small waist, full hips and nicely patterned kid feet with stitched toes. Nice old clothes, the frock made with those "laid gathers" both above and below an inset belt. No marking except size number on the shoulders. No. 928 (Ball head) \$72.50.

Another beautiful bisque (shoulder marked "M" only) may also be of the finest German manufacture, such as were often sent to France for finishing onto bodies. Often marked "Depose," meaning that a deposition had been entered and so no copyright need be considered.

You're welcome, and now back to 25 inch tall "M" Mademoiselle who is on the threshold of becoming Madame. First impression was that she also was a ball head, but no, this smooth 6 inch head is of later dating, after bisque heads were cut across to lessen their weight. But of their fine tint and texture, with lovely full shoulders upon which her head is modeled at a definite side turn, sleeping blue eyes, original golden blond hair. Only blemish, one broken bisque thumb on her shapely old pink arms. And just because D.T. says "June," we'll confess to changing her costume a bit, here at Kimport, but the bridal effect was a triumph; fine old lace and future prospects made Miss M. even more glamorous. No. A68, \$67.50.

Nothing can be more adorably French than a, or a group of, those slender waisted Dressmaker (French Fashion) dolls. Someway,

"dressmaker" or "couturier" dolls seems better than "Fashion" which title long before had belonged to actual old woodens or waxes or compositions, such as mache, dolls that were actually transported to sell the modes of the day to ladies far from the fashion centers. And so to the next three.

Smallest, least expensive, is an 11 inch tall, brown haired French beauty with the regulation closed lips; deeply rounded glass eyes are blue and the head swivels onto bisque shoulders. Body is cloth instead of kid, with precious old parian legs in brown boots. Proper replacement hands were from H.D.D.H., slender, pale pink bisque with separated fingers. Her becoming dress is brown organdie with linen lace insertion and flower-braid trim. Proper undies—nice doll, the only blemish being one little chip out of the shoulder at the neck line, back. No. A69, \$65.00.

Just half inch taller, head of earlier paler bisque, is pretty Mademoiselle O.O.—because that is the French marking on her bisque right shoulder; there is an inconspicuous low mend on her other shoulder. Almond shaped blue eyes, closed lips, pierced ears, swivel neck; original blond wig over cork is in fair condition. Rigid, slender body is of heavy cambric stuffed with hair, dainty bisque arms. We presume the bustle backed skirt and jacket of clover pink silk are original, as they are beautifully styled and hand sewn; old lace hat and passable slippers but not that coveted kind of fine leather. She is a dainty beauty—No. A70, \$100.00.

Perhaps no prettier but plumper as to cheeks and different in that her swivel head fits atop specially

made (but of course all original) plump bisque shoulders. This under-the-wig mechanism we had to see and sure enough, there is an old fat screw through her cork. Small waisted adult shaped body is kid even to feet and hands; same credentials of closed lips, pierced ears and beautiful blue glass eyes handsomely set into pale French bisque. But wait—she is the June Bride once again! Oh, it did take considerable mending and rearranging of the exquisitely applied sheer lace on organ-die, but now she is radiantly reminiscent of "Oh, Happy, Happy Wedding Day"! Wish we could vouch that the pearls around her throat and in her ears were the gift, some eighty years ago, of a bisque bridegroom, but "nope," Kimport did add them, too! Bride Dressmaker Doll, No. A71, \$175.00.

Well, that was the climax and some collectors are due for thrills with any of the above eight beautiful bisques. To continue with twice as many—assorted kinds and at lower prices—First, "Rag."

A pair of "Good Luck Kittens," bearing the seal of the Arnold Print Works, which dates back to 1876, but the cats were copy-righted and printed, as dated in 1892. Two of them, black with amber eyes, 6½ inches tall; fronts, backs and elliptical bases with pink paddy paws thereon, uncut. No. A694, \$7.50 the pair.

Another pair advertises Faultless Starch, with that name on the belt of both "Miss Lily White" and Miss Phoebe Primm—Kansas City, Mo. Also an uncut set; two children, 13 inch size; Lily with a puppy standing between her feet; Phoebe with bobbed hair and strap slippers. These were

printed by the Salfeld Publishing Co. of Akron. Two dolls on one sheet which is about 30 inches wide. No. A695, \$9.00.

And a made-up, 17 inch Negro child with nice naturalistic features, manufactured by the Fabrio Print Mills in 1900 as dimly marked on the sole of his well shaped bare feet. One blue garment, printed on the heavy canvas type material, condition O.K. for a played-with dolly almost sixty years old. No. A760, \$8.50.

These need clothes:—

17½ inch "Juno" marked metal headed child with sleeping brown glass eyes and old bobbed wig of reddish brown. Jointed kidline body, composition arms, but legs seem to be a replacement as they are well stuffed cotton with striped stockings and leather shoes made on. No. A517—\$15.00.

20 inch Simon Halbig bisque and composition in good condition; shapely body is fully jointed even at wrists above hands which have all fingers completely separated. Sleeping blue eyes, opened lips, modeled eyebrows; blond curls and pierced ears add to her charming possibilities. No. A56—\$21.00

Half dozen old "Germany" stamped Chinaheads, with pretty faces and "Nellie Bly" hair-do, have four holes for sewing onto their original sawdust stuffed bodies; white bisque arms and legs with brown glazed shoes; head size 3 is 2¾ inches high, complete doll, 11½ inches. No. AC1, \$6.50. The same with blond hair, No. AC2, \$10.00.

Thirty or forty years older, but still one of those needing clothes, is 11 inch "Hannah." Her 2½ inch head is high of brow and deep of

shoulder, painted eyes of Victorian blue, wide, youthful styling of her jet hair. Small waisted muslin body, old china limbs; her shoes have flat soles—but—the right one a green garter and the left one is rose color. Hannah must have had some devious doin's back in the brownstone era! No. A70, \$18.00.

Back to dressed ones, there is of similar vintage, but more aristocratic complexion, Miss—oh, Mehitable. She is a 12 inch nicely modeled belle with pinkish tint on her 2¼ inch head and slender old arms. Original, early flat soled legs also, but the pink dimity print costume was currently made. It really is charming though; hoop skirt, with four flounces under a tight peplum bodice with braid and button trim. Pink lines are above her blue eyes—oh, Mehitable is one of those prettiest glazed chinas. No. A494, \$30.00.

Those Civil War era chinas are so fascinating that here is another. Only 5½ inches tall, she could be the lady mistress of a li'l'e pillared mansion doll house; black hair, and yes, black eyes; her sweet old full skirted gown is low cut to show deeply sloping shoulders; body is of later (German) date. No. A61, \$16.50.

10½ inch, blue eyed Betsy could have been waxed some eighty odd years ago. She is the porcelain eyed composition kind that often was so embellished; has wooden arms—blue booted legs in splendid condition, but the voice box in her wee tummy no longer squeaks. Mousy blond hair, interesting and certainly all original clothes. No. A31, \$32.00.

For more variety, and early (tagged) 18 inch Lenci peasant with light blue painted eyes, and blond hair wound 'round her head with a fillet of coral ribbon. Her black full skirt and laced bodice are of very heavy wool felt and her fringed embroidered shawl of sheer white wool—no moth holes! Petticoat and panties are edged with linen lace; white blouse is full sleeved and high necked; an apron of blue and gold tone brocade, braid trimmed, completes her pretty costume. No. A72—\$35.00.

Much older and ever so foreign is a pair that only a collector could love. They are 7 inch Japanese Kabuki lady and gentleman that came to England some years before the girl Victoria was crowned queen. They are in poor condition, feet missing or broken, worn ceremonial robes, soiled with the dust of almost a century and a half. But the rich old shades of green, blood-red and purple-blue would be better for some careful cleaning; slender carved hands are nice but like the "Wand'ring Minstrel I" in the Mikado, they are indeed "A Thing of Rags and Tatters." But we will offer this pair at a third of what our over zealous buyer in England charged us—No. A104, the pair, \$10.00.

No parian yet, so here is 10 inch "Alice of Wonderland," whose exquisitely modeled head with the glazed black ribbon from ear top to ear top might even make her eligible for the title, "Dresden." Eyelids even are modeled, pert profile sharply delineated on her perfect, 2½ inch high, blond head, made about 1880. Plump parian arms with cupped hands, and legs with flat soled blue shoes are not original, but the best of late pro-

duction. Sky blue dotted Swiss frock under a pinafore of antique embroidery, all exactly right! No. A13, \$75.00.

One head only, a large, 1960 type with white line center part through the smooth center of her shiny black hair; deep scallops down from her temples and soft vertical curls around the back. Eyes are brightest blue under a modeled eyelid, lined with pink above the black lashes line, in fact, everything about this high glazed china is perfection, even to the reassuring script mark inside her shoulders. $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, $5\frac{1}{4}$ across the prettily sloping shoulders which, by the way, have 6 holes for taping them onto a body. Proper height for her as a finished doll would be about 24 inches. Head, No. A24,—\$45.00.

Finishing now with another "eighteen-sixtish" china of almost translucent quality, a complete doll though, 16 inches tall and dressed in such a quaintly styled white muslin and embroidery costume that maybe she is a bride, too! Very deep shouldered 4 inch head, her curls more irregular and nobby than on the head described above, but fine painting the same, including white highlights in the blue eyes of both. Home-made body on the small waisted, large hipped pattern that sits well; china arms but cloth legs—a lovely doll. No. A462—42.50.

Q. Who made the big bisque headed flirty-eyed dolls?

A. Simon Halbig. There may also be a K.R. mark with the six-pointed star between initials.

HISTORY OF K & R

Jo Bender
Doll

Half the pleasure of collecting is the tracing out of doll origins. Our Doll Primer and special offerings of German bisque dolls last issue of **Doll Talk** has brought many letters to us and uncovered additional information on German sources. Mrs. Marie Matheson of California, a widely known doll authority, sends this item about the Kaiser Baby and data regarding K. & R.

"Kammer and Reinhardt, the largest doll factory in Germany, was organized in 1885 by Franz Reinhardt, a young salesman, and Ernst Kammer, an expert modeler and skilled workman. In 1908 this company hired an artist in Berlin to make the head of a six weeks old baby. This is now known as the 'Kaiser Baby.' K. & R. also made character dolls named 'Marie,' 'Gretchen' and 'Hans,' that were modeled from Herr Reinhardt's nephew. These became very popular and put new life into their doll business.

"After Kammer's death in 1901, K. & R. bought out a rival factory after the death also of its founder, Henrich Handwerck. Later still, the K. & R. company combined with the factory of Simon & Halbig."

No wonder we all get confused over the many markings!

Q. Who made the "Queen Louise" doll?

A. Louis Wolf & Co., New York importers, used this name, 1910. Head made in Germany by, not sure but apparently, Armand Marseille.

DOLL TALK

Editor, Ruby Short McKim

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for two years.

Address:

KIMPORT DOLLS
Independence, Mo.

Q. Who made the bisque doll head with a horseshoe trademark?

A. Armand Marseille, a German manufacturer.

Q. Do you know what I could use to re-paint a metal head Minerva?

A. There may be something better but when we have to re-touch complexions, we use a dull finish oil paint; sometimes a little naphtha or gasoline to thin it a bit will kill the gloss.



MAKE A NOTE OF THESE!

Because Brides have really taken over in this **Doll Talk**—we might say those romantic darlings are "somethin' to write home about!" So—here is an opportunity to get bridal notepaper, ten 5½ x 4¼ inch double fold with envelopes—two each of five authentic old-fashioned reprints. They are so charming and finely detailed that the conscientious doll dress maker

may find herself in a dither of detail. From one to six brides are on these; the pairs dated 1834-40-55-61 and '67. The last two wear hoop skirts, elaborately decorated gowns of Civil War era. You'll like them so much—No. 37B at \$1.00 a set, that we'll dangle bargain bait—6 sets at one mailing so you can consider these as a gift idea. No. 37B-6—\$5.00.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR STORY

Last summer in San Francisco, we had an interview with a delightful journalist, Mrs. Max Gilstrap, a special writer for Christian Science Monitor. Space in this important paper is at a great premium of course, and only now in the April 27th number does the doll story appear.

Already a flattering number of letters have come in and we thought perhaps some of our Doll Talk readers would like to see the article, too.

DOLL COUSINS? OF COURSE!

Interesting as dolls are, they are only incidental to our love of interesting people! Mrs. William H. Scopes of New York has long been a welcome correspondent and although she proudly admits to the Biblical "scores," Helen Scopes never flags in her doll enthusiasm. We elder McKims recently discovered an additional tie in that her husband and our son-in-law, William B. Fullerton, Jr., are both member architects in A.I.A.

Here is a little story and it's sequel. We have reserved and written Mrs. Scopes about two special dolls. She wrote, "Yes" to both the lit'lest Greiner and to the much younger Effanbee Colonial girl. "They sound enchanting!"

The sequel:—"My early marked American and the Effanbee distantly-related lady are both loves. They seem to have settled in nicely with all their 42nd cousins. It certainly paid to wait for that small Greiner—she is just what I hoped for!"

IT SOUNDS SO NICE

Maybe our readers get tired of the compliments we print in Doll Talk, but we get much inspiration to carry on when our friends are so complimentary. For instance, the three little McKim girls got many a fan letter, one of the nicest being from Mrs. Stow Wengenroth, known in the doll world as, Edith Flack Ackley, author of "Dolls to Make for Fun and Profit," and others.

She wrote: "What lovely, likable children! I couldn't throw that away, so after I'd crumpled the subscription slip, I fished it out and am sending my dollar. I am not a doll collector but am interested in dolls—make them, day in and day out."

Mrs. Wengenroth's own Christmas card showed two adorable Ackley dolls in full color, beautifully painted by her daughter, Telka Ackley.

There—are we forgiven such quotes?

SIDE SHOW STUFF!

Mrs. Lee Gifford of California was next name up in our Kimport file of wants on a Schoenhut Circus. She had found one during the waiting period, but did write back some notes here shared:—

"I do keep searching for circus characters, hoping I'll find one I don't have. Your little lady is no doubt a bareback rider or acrobat, minus clothes. The girl with bob belongs to the small size circus and was one of the lady performers, but made later when bobbed hair was in vogue. Many do not know that Schoenhut made two sizes of the circus, although they did not make all of the animals or performers in the small size."

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

Arriving too late for our last January issue was this from Mrs. F. L. Muncy of California: "The miniature creche fitted perfectly on one of the glass shelves in my window out on the front porch. It was an exquisite bit of Provincial French for the Christmas season."

Along with an order for five Doll Books came this assurance from Victoria L. Fay, of Mass. "Enclosed find order and check for \$14.50. I received this money for Christmas and could think of no better way to spend it."

"The Ceylon Fisherman you sent as the December Doll of the Month is fine. Perhaps you have guessed that I am trying to fill in my collection with dolls from distant places, which I would probably never visit . . . Please do not send the next one until around the 15th, as it's more fun to space them out!"
—Lavinia Talley, Penna.

"I was intrigued with Notion Nannie, and wondered why I hadn't paid any attention to her in 1944. So I got out my first volume of *Doll Talk*, Vol. 1, No. 1, and spent much time looking over the old issues and mourning over the ones that got away!"

—Janice M. Ahlstrom, Ohio

"You will be interested to know that 'Rosie O'Grady,' that wire-eyed wax we got from Kimport, is in the Bowers Museum as of today for this season's doll show."

—Mrs. O. M. Baldinger, Calif.

"I have a little monkey, 'Pixie'. She is so tiny she fits in one hand, and as cute as a bug's ear. Pixie loves dolls; kisses every new doll that comes into the house. The girls, two of my grand-daughters, gave her her own doll collection and now the happiest minutes of her life are when the girls try to look at the dolls and Pixie fights to protect them."

—Mrs. K. B. Nugent, Calif.

"I have been one of your subscribers for twenty years or more. Cannot do without my little 'Book'. Am a collector, not dealer, and on my next birthday, I'll step over the line into my 90th year." (Congratulations from Kimport!)

—Mrs. R. C. Wandling, W. Va.

"I will be very happy to give my daughter the beautiful French Brittany baby doll by Madam Le-Minor, so please continue to hold it for me. My daughter is playing a piano concert with the Poona Musical Orchestra in February. This concert is to be an aid for the blind school and I want to give her this doll as a little gift in honor of the occasion."

—Mrs. M. K. Rastomjee,
Poona, India

"I just finished dressing a doll from the ribbon bows that were used on the pews at my great-niece's wedding. She will be given this 'romantic' gift when she returns from Scotland."

—Mrs. J. A. Goodworth, Penna.

"I received my little Brittany girl and it is so darling and the costume so accurate, I would like to order five more!"

—Florence Hamilton, N. J.

DOLL PRIMER: MAE STARR, ONE OF THE PHONOGRAPH DOLLS

It's so easy for our collectors to ask questions, bless them! But what a labyrinth of research they sometimes require. For instance, "Mae Starr" doll, 28" is how old? Who made them? Mine sings 'London Bridge'." Well, the **Doll Collectors of America, Inc., 1946 Manual** pictures and describes a "Mae Starr" doll, same size and singing same song as our enquirer's. But, alas, no date or maker named. Janet Johl in **Still More About Dolls** writes: "**Playthings Directory** for 1934 lists a phonograph doll by Fleischaker & Baum, Inc., named "Mae Starr" after the designer of their earlier doll. Due to material shortage, the doll was discontinued in 1944." A search of **U. S. Trademarks** compiled by Luella Hart, does not show any reference to "Mae Starr," nor any patent issued to F & B that could apply to this phonograph doll.

Here's a collateral item of interest: In 1922 the Averill Mfg. Co. of New York, patented the "Madame Hendron Talking and Walking Doll." At least one of these described in **More About Dolls** is identical in several points to the "Mae Starr" doll. The heads are composition, the arms and legs are one piece composition, the bodies cloth. The record box, to take a phonograph cylinder, fits in the back and winds on the right side. We also have pictures of a doll with body stamped "Madame Hendron" and in addition to composition arms, legs and head, the phonograph assembly on the "Hendron" and "Mae Starr" show exactly alike. The Universal Talking Toy Co. furnished the music box for at least some of the "Hendron" dolls. They may have also supplied the "Mae Starr" and perhaps other lines. Various Nursery Rhymes came on the cylinders fitting both these dolls. These dolls were made in the U. S.

Now comes the daddy of them all! In 1877 Edison patented the first phonograph; in 1878 W. W. Jacques worked out an improvement on the Edison invention, patented the first phonograph doll and immediately assigned it to Edison; in 1888 Edison was granting manufacturing rights to toy and doll makers, and by 1890 Edison was offering a phonograph doll with his record mechanism and an imported French doll. This differed from the "Mae Starr" in almost all particulars except the phonograph cylinder insert. It was a French jointed doll with a metal torso. Size 22 inches. Price \$10.00.

P. S.: We have a letter from a collector owning a marked "Mae Starr" doll. Her family got it in 1946 from a woman then 74 years old who got the doll, she says, when a little girl. That would go back to the early eighties. Please figure that out!